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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
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SUBJECT: "More Grain for Human Use--Less for Livestock" - Information from the Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Since the beginning of history...peoples of the world have used grain to relieve famine. That's because grain goes further than any other food. You can get a good idea how grain compares with meat in this respect from a study made at Iowa State College. It shows that while an acre of wheat will feed 10 people 51 days...if it is fed to steers and eventually eaten as meat it will feed 10 people for only 5 days. An acre of corn will feed 10 people 51 days. But an acre of feed crops to hogs will furnish meat to feed 10 people only 15 days. In other words...in times of famine...meat is a luxury food.

And today--when the world's food supply is so desperately short--it is necessary for the people of the United States to make our grain stretch just as far as possible. One way we can do this is to cut down on the amount of feed going to livestock and to use this grain to feed human beings.

To this end...the government recently raised the ceiling price of grain so that the price of corn was increased 25 cents a bushel, wheat 15 cents a bushel, and the price of other grains went up accordingly. And the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced a cut of 10 percent in the fall pig production goal.

One result of this action will be an increasing number of hogs coming to the market somewhat earlier than usual. This will mean more pork on the market during the next two months than we might otherwise see.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture says the action is not likely to change the supply of beef for the next month or two. Most beef cattle are now on pasture.

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However..next fall it may be necessary for producers to market large numbers of beef cattle with little or no grain feeding. That will mean they won't have the "finish" or grade that comes when a steer is fattened on grain feed. As you may know...cattle numbers at the beginning of this year were at near record level and cattle marketings will continue at a high rate.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is urging poultrymen to cull flocks sharply since the immediate need for grain is greater than the need for eggs. Fifteen pounds of grain--the amount it takes to feed three or four non-producing hens for a month--will provide enough flour and bread to feed a human being for one month. So culling is extremely important. The Department of Agriculture points out that careful culling will not make much difference in egg production at this season of the year. It will mean the greatest production of eggs with the least use of feed.

Dairy farmers are asked to make the most efficient use of pasture and roughage so that the limited feed grains will be used to produce all the milk possible The aim in dairy production is to keep the output as close to the record levels o the past two years as possible.

Summing up...here's how the grain conservation programs will affect our protein supply. There will be less pork, a smaller production of poultry and eggs, and less top grade beef next year than this. But the prospect is that the total supply of these foods will still be above the pre-war levels.

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